

Mega month of sport begins; chalk art hits the road; a tiny turtle triumph; and the world's largest paper plane?

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Christie Kijurina

It's Wednesday, June 3 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Mega month of sport begins; chalk art hits the road; a tiny turtle triumph; and the world's largest paper plane?

That's what's making news, kids' style ...

THE LOWDOWN

Buckle up sports fans... because the world of sport is about to go absolutely bananas.

And today, we're starting with football (aka soccer) because Tony Popovic, coach of Australia's national men's team, the Socceroos, has announced the squad heading to the FIFA Men's World Cup, which kicks off next Friday Aussie time across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The 26-player team is packed with exciting younger stars and a few experienced players making their fourth World Cup appearance. One name getting lots of attention is Cristian Volpato, who made a late decision to play for Australia after also being linked to Italy... meaning the green and gold has gained another talented footballer.

The tournament is the biggest World Cup ever, with 48 teams chasing football glory, and before it all begins, Australia still has one final warm-up game against Switzerland this weekend.

And if you're keen to learn more, we'll have a special Squiz Kids Shortcut all about football, the FIFA Men's World Cup, and why billions of people around the globe stop to watch, landing in your podcast feed next Tuesday.

And if giant trophies, dramatic finals and nail-biting sport are your thing, this week is absolutely stacked.

Today at around 10am on Australia's east coast, the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup Final begins in the USA, with the Carolina Hurricanes (whose mascot, by the way, is a pig called Stormy) facing off against the Vegas Golden Knights in North America's biggest ice hockey showdown.

Then tomorrow morning at about 10:30, it's basketball's turn, as the New York Knicks and San Antonio Spurs tip off the NBA Finals. And because the Knicks haven't won a title since waaaaay back in 1973, I reckon they might have a few extra people cheering them on.

Both championships are best-of-seven series, meaning teams have to win four games before anyone gets to lift a giant shiny trophy and celebrate.

Which means teachers... if anyone in class suddenly becomes extremely curious about what's happening on a laptop screen this week... now you know why.

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops, and today we've landed in the United States, in the town of Joplin, Missouri, where artists are turning ordinary roads into giant mind-bending masterpieces.

Picture this: a giant hole opening in the road in front of you... a monster bursting from the pavement... or yourself balancing on the edge of an impossible cliff.

Except... none of it is real.

The town of Joplin is hosting the World Street Painting Festival, where artists from all around the world use chalk and special tricks of perspective to turn ordinary roads into giant 3D optical illusions where the artworks seem to leap right out of the ground.

This year's artworks celebrate the 100th birthday of Route 66... one of America's most famous roads. Nicknamed the "Mother Road," it once connected the city of Chicago all the way to California and became famous for family road trips, quirky roadside attractions and bright neon signs.

And did you know that street art like this has actually been around for hundreds of years? Back in Italy in the 1500s, artists used chalk to create giant pictures in town squares. So, if you're feeling inspired this weekend, grab some chalk, find a bit of pavement, and give your own street art a crack. I've linked some very cool pictures in today's episode notes to get your ideas flowing.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Good news from the animal kingdom today, and we're starting with some tiny travellers beginning one of nature's biggest adventures. More than 9,000 baby green sea turtles have started heading out to sea after a special rescue project helped protect their eggs in far north Queensland in Australia.

Most of these turtles normally hatch on Raine Island, a tiny coral island that hosts huge turtle crowds every nesting season. But warmer temperatures and rising seas have been making life tricky for hatchlings. So researchers, alongside Traditional Owners, carefully moved thousands of turtle eggs to a nearby island and buried them beneath shade to keep the sand cooler.

The cooler temps make a difference, because amazingly, the temperature of the sand helps decide whether hatchlings become boys or girls. Warmer sand means more females, and scientists say this turtle population has been becoming too female-heavy, so they've been trying to keep them cooler to ensure more males...

This year, more than 80 per cent of the relocated eggs hatched successfully and made it safely to the ocean. Hooray!

BIGGEST, FURTHEST, LONGEST

If you made a paper plane so big you couldn't carry it through a doorway... do you reckon it still counts as a paper plane? A group of high school students in China think they may have built the world's biggest remote-controlled paper plane and are now hoping to land a Guinness World Record.

The giant plane was created by students in the city of Shenzhen after around six months of designing, testing and rebuilding. And while this isn't the kind of paper plane you scrunch together during maths class, it still started with a simple idea: how big could a paper plane become and still fly?

The finished flying machine stretches more than six metres across, about the length of a small car, and is controlled remotely like a drone. The team recently tested it, managing to keep the plane flying for around 15 minutes.

Now, before anyone starts folding up giant sheets of butcher's paper at home, there's a catch, this plane needed lots of engineering, careful balancing and some very clever problem solving to get airborne. And yes... I've linked pictures in today's episode notes because this thing really has to be seen to be believed.

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. Which NBA basketball team has not won a title since 1973?
2. Which famous US road is celebrating its 100th birthday this year?
3. Which species of turtle was the target of a special rescue project in North Queensland?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Wednesday, June 3, and today is Mabo Day... a day that remembers one of the biggest courtroom decisions in Australian history.

On this day, 34 years ago, the High Court of Australia ruled that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had lived on, cared for and belonged to this land for tens of thousands of years before British settlement.

The case was led by Eddie Koiki Mabo, a Torres Strait Islander man from Mer Island, who challenged the idea that his family's traditional land belonged to the Crown.

The court overturned something called *terra nullius*...a Latin phrase meaning "land belonging to no one", an idea used for many years to claim Australia had no owners before the British arrived.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Mila and Zella from Forest Lake, Sophie from Forest Lake, Anika from Belmont, Lidia from Dimbulah, Ben from Lakes Entrances, Emma from Hurstville, Elliot from Flemington and Scarlett from Prahran.

Belated shoutouts go to...Riley from Goornong, Ali from Aspley and Sebby from Mitcham

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 6 Alpine with Mrs Halse at Leura Public School, class 5/6G with Miss Gillespie at Lucas Heights Community School, class 5/6B with Mr Blain at Belmont Primary School, the 3/4 classes with Mrs Willis and Mrs Owen at Glenbrook Public School and a special shoutout goes to classes K-6P with Mrs Perfect at Bradbury Public School - who have been patiently waiting all term, to hear their class shoutout!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. NY Knicks
2. Route 66
3. The Green Sea Turtle

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout... drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - we'll be back again tomorrow.

In the meantime ... get out there and have a most excellent day ... over and out.